

The Safe Use of Pure Hypochlorous Acid as a Cleanser of Skin and Wounds on the Premature Infant

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Message:

Premature infants (<37 weeks) have fragile, translucent skin and are sensitive to cleansing agents such as hydrogen peroxide, povidone iodine, Dakin's® Solution, and chlorhexidine. Antibacterials such as silver sulfadiazine cannot be used in infants because of the risk of toxicity. Fungal infections are common related to the high humidity necessary for preterm infants. Pure hypochlorous acid (Vashe®) can remove microorganisms and fungi, is non-cytotoxic, is safe for use around the eyes, ears, mouth, and genitalia.

Methods:

Vashe Wound Solution was used to treat the skin and wounds on 10 premature infants (<37 weeks gestation). Wounds on the patients included rashes, crusting, and open wounds. Vashe was used for bathing and temporary warm wound soaks prior to wound care. No vigorous wiping was used because of diminished cohesion between the epidermis and dermis in the preterm babies.

Results:

The Vashe hypochlorous acid was well tolerated in all patients and no safety issues arose. The bacterial colonization was controlled and fungal infections did not occur. Skin irritation due to the cleansing did not occur.

Conclusions:

Vashe is pure hypochlorous acid with no hypochlorite and has a pH of 5.1-5.6. This is compatible with the premature infant's skin whose pH is 5.6. The reported safety around the eyes, ears, nose, mouth, and genitalia coupled with its lack of cytotoxicity make the agent ideal for use in preterm babies.

**24 week gestational age with open wound of unknown etiology on left arm.
Warm hypochlorous acid soaks every other day.**



Day 1



Week 3



Week 9

**22 week infant with pressure sore of right ear.
Warm Hypochlorous acid wipes daily.**



Day 1



At Resolution



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